



LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN

Thursday, April 13 | Mark 14:32-42

It is in the Garden of Gethsemane that we see Jesus “deeply distressed and troubled”. How can this be? Isn't this the Messiah who would bring salvation to the world? He even prays that God change the course of what is about to happen. Jesus is suffering emotionally, and soon he will be suffering physically in a way that is almost unimaginable. Jesus is fretting. Jesus is scared. In contrast, the disciples (Peter, James, and John) seem to be oblivious to what's unfolding. Jesus tells them to “keep watch” while he prays. But apparently that takes too much energy. Instead of keeping watch, they fall asleep. Jesus returns, and when he sees them sleeping he's incredulous. And so he wakes them and says basically “let's try this again”... but again, sleep overtakes them. Again, Jesus returns, wakes them... “let's try this again.” A third time, Jesus returns and finds them asleep and instead of “let's try this again”, it's “the hour has come.”

Not once in this scene are the disciples able to follow-through with Jesus' instructions. And yet it will be from these sleepers that the Gospel will be spread and nations will come to know Jesus as savior. What hope! How many times have we failed doing the most simple of Jesus' commands? And what do we hear when we do? “Let's try this again.” And so we do... again, and again, and again. At some point, we break through. But it takes so many “do-overs”. This is grace. We are a do-over people in a begin-again faith.

Lord, continue to bear with us as you have through the centuries, as we continue to seek to do your will. Forgive us when we fail you, even after you suffered for us. Help us to try again. Thank you for your love, your grace, and your infinite patience. Amen.

Written by Pastor Jeff Gehle